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TELEGRAM DATED 18 MAY 1989 FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF
THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES ADDRESSED TO THE
SECRETARY-GENERAL

In conformity with Article 54 of the Charter of the United Nations, I have the honour to transmit the text of the resolution adopted at the second plenary meeting of the Twenty-first Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs:

"The grave Panamanian crisis in its international context

"Resolution I

"The Twenty-first Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs,

"Reaffirming:

"That the real meaning of American solidarity and good-neighbourliness must be none other than the consolidation on this continent, within the framework of democratic institutions, of a régime of individual freedom and social justice based on respect for the essential rights of man;

"That no State or group of States has the right to intervene, either directly or indirectly or for any reason whatsoever, in the internal or external affairs of any other State; and

"Whereas:

"The grave incidents and the abuses by General Manuel Antonio Noriega in the crisis and the electoral process in Panama could trigger an escalation of violence, with the attendant risks for the life and integrity of persons;

"Such incidents have curtailed the right of the Panamanian people freely to elect their lawful authorities;

"The outrageous abuses perpetrated against opposition candidates and Panamanian citizens violate human, civil and political rights;

"The crisis, which has its roots in internal and external factors, is rapidly growing worse and could pose a serious threat to international peace and security;

"The solidarity of the American States and the high aims which are sought through it require the political organization of those States on the basis of the effective exercise of representative democracy;

"Every State has the right to choose its political, economic and social system free from outside interference and to organize itself in the manner most suited to its needs;

"The Organization of American States must offer its co-operation in promoting the measures required to find an urgent, effective solution to the Panamanian crisis which preserves the norms of inter-American coexistence;

"It is a fundamental objective of the Organization of American States to promote and consolidate representative democracy while respecting the principle of non-intervention, and this objective is seriously threatened in the present political situation in Panama; and

"All the Governments of America have a fundamental commitment, which has earned universal approval, to the validity of the 1977 Panama Canal Treaties and to their implementation;

"RESOLVES:

"1. To entrust to the Foreign Ministers of Ecuador, Guatemala and Trinidad and Tobago assisted by the Secretary General of the Organization of American States, the mission of urgently promoting compromise formulas leading to a national agreement which ensures the early transfer of power in accordance with democratic mechanisms and on the basis of full respect for the sovereign wishes of the Panamanian people.

"2. To urge the Panamanian Government to co-operate fully in ensuring the implementation of this resolution.

"3. To urge the authorities and all the political forces of Panama to refrain from taking any measures or action which might aggravate the crisis.

"4. To urge all States to co-operate in ensuring the implementation of this resolution.

"5. To instruct the mission to submit a report on the fulfilment of its mandate to this Meeting of Consultation, for consideration at its meeting convened for 6 June 1989 to decide on any further measures which may be required.

"6. To urge all States to refrain from any action which violates the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of States.

"7. To keep the Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs open for as long as the present situation persists."

Joao Clemente Baena SOARES
Secretary General

